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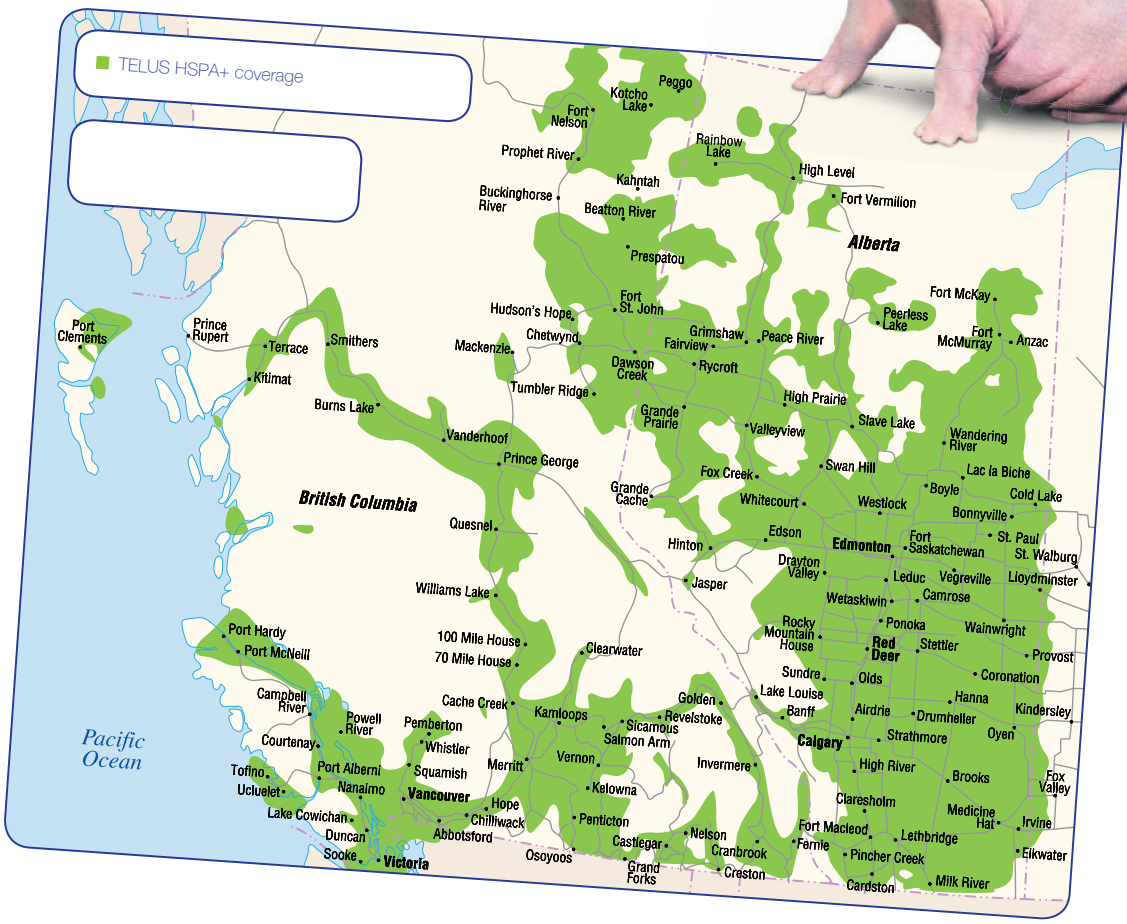


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OBAMA HAS FIGHTIN' WORDS FOR BANKS, PG10

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## Celebrity Buzz

Swift spends on schools
pg 22

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## Freezing rain next offer from Mother Nature

**FORECAST** After waking up to as much as 20 centimetres of snow in some places, Lower Mainlanders are being advised to brace for freezing rain next.

Environment Canada issued a warning yesterday for an extended period of freezing rain today. It is expected to start later this morning and move toward the Fraser Valley in the afternoon.

METRO VANCOUVER

**News on the Move**

**What's this barcode for?**
*Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3*

**Sports** pg 14

Canucks stop L.A. Kings

**Food** pg 17

This casserole fit for the trail

**Entertainment** pg 18

Depp just a working guy

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver 2010 volunteer Ryan DeLuca shows his hot-off-the-press credentials at the Uniform and Accreditation Centre at the PNE, which officially opened at 2 p.m. yesterday. DeLuca will be volunteering as a host at the Vancouver Olympic Village.

# VANOC ready to dress up, roll call volunteers

## Uniforms, accreditation in place for 25,000 at PNE's Forum

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

**Another major milestone was reached yesterday on the road to the 2010 Games, as VANOC began handing out accreditation badges and uniforms to Olympic volunteers.**

Vancouver's Uniform and Accreditation Centre opened its doors at the PNE's 3,960-square-metre Forum Building, where the first of 25,000 volunteers were given credentials and outfitted with official 2010 uniforms.

Vancouver realtor Ryan DeLuca is taking time off during the Games to volunteer as a host at the Olympic Village, where he'll check the accreditation of people coming and going from the facility.

"We'll be (the athletes') first introduction to Vancouver. I think it's going to be absolutely amazing," he said, adding he hoped to get a gig at the village because it's one of the few places volunteers can interact with all athletes.

"It's a great way to interact with people from around the world," DeLuca said. "(And) to make a whole new set of friends and meet people with the same passion of sport as I do."

Ruth Grierson, a team leader at the Athletes' Village, said she's wanted to volunteer for the Games since before Vancouver won the bid.

"I've already put in my application (to volunteer) in London (2012)," Grierson said.

She has been working for two years as a pre-Games volunteer and yesterday she finally picked up her complimentary teal 2010 jacket, shirt and vest, and navy pants.

"They're really comfortable," she said. "It's really exciting because you know (the Games) are really close now."

Grierson said the accreditation process will go quickly for volunteers.

"It's such a big space that they'll be able to handle a lot of people," she said.

The Uniform and Accreditation Centre will be open every day — except for a few over the holidays — from now through the Olympics and Paralympics.

Allen Vansen, vice-president of operations and integration with VANOC, said the centre will serve around 52,000 staff, volunteers, contractors, athletes, team members, media and sponsors.

"The accreditation process is quite substantial and getting to today's date is quite a monumental occasion," he said. "We now have people accredited to enter the venue and have their uniforms."

### Sharp-dressed hosts

- Around 25,000 uniforms will be handed out at the centre in Vancouver.
- On its busiest days, between Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, the centre will distribute as many as 1,500 uniforms per day.

## Can old document save Bloedel?

**CONSERVATORY** Friends of the Bloedel, a preservation group concerned with saving the Bloedel Conservatory, say a 43-year-old document is the key to rescuing the troubled building.

The document in question, dated March 31, 1966, is an agreement between the Bloedel Foundation and the Parks Board that states the building shall remain a conservatory for the extent of its useful life. It also says that only the B.C. Supreme Court can change the terms of the contract.

But, according to Parks Board commissioner Aaron Jasper, the document has no significance because the Bloedel Foundation has ceased to exist since 1979.

"When the Bloedel Foundation disbanded they did not re-assign their rights," said Jasper. "By default, the building belongs to the City of Vancouver and the Parks Board."

Sheryl Hamilton, a director with Friends of the Bloedel who held a press conference yesterday to discuss the original agreement, said the group intends to pursue legal action.

"We have received legal counsel on this matter," she said. "We have been assured by our lawyers that we are pursuing this in the correct manner. We will save the Bloedel."

The Parks Board was scheduled to hold a meeting last night at their offices to discuss options for saving the conservatory.

"We are interested to hear all recommendations," said Jasper. "We want to work with all concerned, including the Friends of the Bloedel. Come one, come all."

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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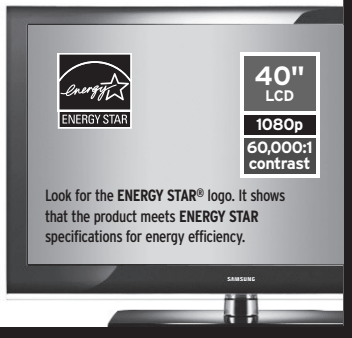


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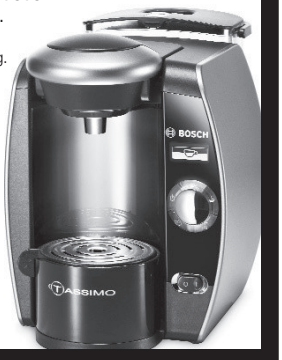

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# Local

## Charges unlikely against rapper

**American rapper Kid Cudi, left, likely won't be charged despite a video surfacing on YouTube that appears to show him punching a fan at a concert at the Commodore Ballroom on Saturday. No witnesses have complained about Cudi's behaviour, leaving police with no option but to leave him alone.**

METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
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## News in brief

**THEFT** While many victims of break and enters are robbed of jewelry, money and home electronics, one family in Delta had their home broken into and lost their pressure washer, hockey equipment and supply of carbonated beverages. No suspects have been identified.

**PARK SPACE** Whistler RV Park and Campground will be renting out 100 spaces on its property during the Olympics at $160 per night for each space. Those staying at the park will have access to shuttle services to and from the Medal Park.

**HOLIDAY MAIL** Canada Post has sent out a warning for Vancouverites planning to mail packages to family this Christmas. Nearly 34 million pieces of mail are expected to be processed this holiday season, so people are advised to get presents in the mail by tomorrow or Thursday if they want them to arrive before Dec. 25.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY
**Your Money** Allan Small offers a look at what 2010 may hold for investors at **metronews.ca/investing**
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# 10 top scams to watch out for

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

**Consumer watchdogs yesterday rolled out the top 10 scams in the Lower Mainland for 2009, as follows:**

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

**Lynda Pasacreta, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of the Lower Mainland, and Victor Hammill with the Competition Bureau of Canada, in Vancouver yesterday.**

**1** Topping the list were health-care scams like bogus cancer and diabetes cures and pills for weight loss.

The Internet became flooded with hundreds of websites offering vaccine and Tamiflu within hours of the World Health Organization first announcing the H1N1 flu.

"These people prey on people's emotion," said Lynda Pasacreta, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of the Lower Mainland.

"There's a hurt in the marketplace. People are panicking about getting H1N1 and are buying stuff online."

**2** Signing up for so-called "free" online trials for items like acne cream and teeth whitener can end up with the victim being billed automatically and repeatedly.

**3** Identification theft can result from information phishing in the form of "scareware" pop-ups that say your computer is infected with a virus or legitimate-looking emails that ask you to update your information.

**4** Home-repair ripoffs, like phoney reports your furnace is leaking carbon monoxide and needs to be replaced immediately.

**5** Loan offers for people with bad credit to keep afloat through lean economic times could result in huge financial losses and even ID theft.

**6** Free grants from the Canadian government that are advertised online could be a mass-marketing scheme that costs you money to participate.

**7** Investment opportunities requiring you to recruit others that are actually pyramid schemes.

**8** Cash-back fraud when selling things such as automobiles. The buyer will send you a larger cheque by "mistake" and then ask for the balance in a money transfer. The cheque will bounce a few days later.

**9** Unexplained charges on your cellphone could be due to premium text messages that people unknowingly sign up for when they play online games or take online IQ tests.

**10** Mystery shopping jobs requiring you to shop via wire-transfer service. Be wary of mystery shopper ads that require you to pay money up front.

# VANOC distributes permits for Sea-to-Sky Games driving

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

**TRAFFIC** Olympic organizers have started giving out permits for driving on the Sea-to-Sky highway during the Games.

They're only for people who own property in Whistler and VANOC has mailed each household two permits. They're transferable between vehicles, tenants and guests who have a parking space at the residence.

Without a permit, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. no one will be allowed to pass the Alice Lake turnoff, just north of Squamish, from Feb. 11 to Feb. 28.

VANOC also opened four ticket-distribution centres yesterday to provide in-person service.

Coquitlam resident Vince Smith owns a condo in Whistler and plans to attend ski jumping events.

"I didn't get my tickets sent to me in the mail," he said in Vancouver. "And they didn't have my name on the list, but in the end, this was easy. They sorted it right out."

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# Complaint filed in police shooting

**EMAIL** The family of a homeless man shot to death by Vancouver police last March has filed a complaint against Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu over an email circulated after the killing.

The email sent to all police department staff suggested there was clear surveillance-video evidence that the officers fired in self-defence when they confronted 58-year-old Michael Van Hubbard after responding to a theft call.

The Pivot Legal Society quotes Hubbard family lawyer Nina Purewal as saying Chu's biased description of the video could have contaminated the testimony of witnesses.

The results of an Abbotsford police investigation of the shooting are expected today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Night skiing begins**

Night skiing begins at Cypress Mountain tomorrow at the Nordic and Alpine areas. The mountain will now be open until 10 p.m. except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, until Feb. 1, when it will close for duration of the Olympic Games. METRO VANCOUVER

# No money for sweeping change: B.C. official

**A coroner's inquest into the murder-suicide of a Victoria family resumed yesterday with a warning from a justice official that there is no funding for sweeping changes to the system in place when Peter Lee killed his family.**

Lee was on bail facing a domestic assault-type charge when he killed his six-year-old son, Christian, his wife and his in-laws, before killing himself in September 2007.

Robert Gillen, B.C.'s assistant deputy attorney general, said in his testimony at the inquest that the murders could spur changes in how the province deals with domestic violence.

**"There's no point pretending we're using the Cadillac when we're lucky to get the used Ford."** B.C. Assistant Deputy Attorney General Robert Gillen

But Gillen said most changes require more money, and there is not a lot of extra money available.

He suggested the three-man, two-woman jury make recommendations at the conclusion of the inquest that can be built into the current legal system without breaking the budget.

"There's no point pretending we're using the Cadillac when we're lucky to get the used Ford," said Gillen.

The ministry official was the first witness to appear before the inquest jury following a 19-month adjournment, sparked by the refusal of Crown prosecutors in May 2008 to testify.

The Crown argued that forcing them to testify about the case would put undue interference on the legal process.

The case went to the B.C. Court of Appeal last July, where the court ruled in favour of the Crown. The B.C. Coroner's Service decided not to appeal the ruling, and the inquest resumed.

Peter Lee, 38, a navy reservist with some weapons training, stabbed to death his son, his wife Yong (Sunny) Park, and her parents Kum Lea Chun and Moon Kyu Park, before killing himself. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Ferry operator upset over 'parking fee'

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

The owner of the passenger ferry connecting West Vancouver to Coal Harbour, downtown, is upset the Park Board wants to charge him $500 a month for using the dock at the foot of Bute Street.

Capt. Ihab Shaker, owner and operator of B.C. Coastal Ferries, was at a Park Board meeting last night to ask why he should pay to use a public space.

"I am offering a public service at no cost to the tax payers, using a public dock," said Shaker.

Park Board commissioner Ian Robertson said B.C. Coastal Ferries is a commercial operation and should pay a parking fee.

"Captain Ihab is a for-profit business operator. Obviously, with the increased use this private operator would bring, there is going to be some additional maintenance work, and I don't think the taxpayers should be left to pay the bill," said Robertson.

Shaker said he would pay to continue operating, but he pointed out that West Vancouver is giving him time to build up a customer base.

"They gave me the docks for six months free of charge, on a trial period, then we will reassess," said Shaker.

# Woodlands settlement reached

**LAWSUIT** Residents of a school for the disabled who say they were physically, sexually and emotionally abused at the government-run institution have reached a settlement with the B.C. government.

The settlement of the class-action lawsuit by about 1,100 former residents of the Woodlands School in New Westminster is expected to be approved by a judge at the end of January.

The school operated between 1950 and 1996, but only residents at the school after Aug. 1, 1974 are eligible for compensation because that's when a new law came into effect making the government liable for harm done to those in its care.

STIG NIELSEN/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

## News in brief

**VICTORIA** Investment advisers at a Victoria branch of RBC Dominion Securities are being probed by Canada Revenue Agency for allegedly setting up offshore accounts that clients used to evade taxes. A total of 16 offshore accounts were set up, with 13 allegedly being used for tax evasion.

**NANAIMO** Police in Nanaimo say they've arrested a "known drug dealer" and a passenger in his car after they drove off a Duke Point ferry from Vancouver and were found to have hash and crystal meth on them. Mark Poisin, from Port Alberni, appeared in court yesterday.

**CHILLIWACK** A 33-year-old Chilliwack man has been arrested and charged with assault and uttering threats in connection with an altercation with bouncers at Echo Room nightclub on Saturday night. When police searched the suspect's car they allegedly found a loaded gun, knife and marijuana.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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**Police cleared in Cape Breton man's death**

The RCMP says an investigation into the police shooting death of a Cape Breton man last year has found no wrongdoing. John Simon died after he was shot by an RCMP officer at a home on the Wagmatcook First Nation reserve on Dec. 2, 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Canada

## Liberal big wig aims for mayoral gig

**The national director of the federal Liberal party has put his name on the ballot for the Toronto mayoralty race in October 2010. Rocco Rossi, left, has already resigned as the party's top administrator and fundraiser, effective Dec. 31. In announcing his candidacy yesterday outside Toronto City Hall, Rossi spoke in Spanish, French, Italian and English to declare: "I'm big, I'm bald and I've got bold ideas for the city."** THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Asbestos lobby gets federal funds

## Group denies boosting climate-change skepticism

Go Green

**Ottawa has been funding an asbestos lobby group that promotes the work of prominent climate-change skeptics.**

The revelation comes as Canada's delegation struggles to avoid being cast as the villain at the Copenhagen climate conference, and environmentalists are urging the government to stop financing the group.

On its website, the Chrysotile Institute promotes a chapter that it says debunks the asbestos health-risk hoax from the 2007 book titled Scared to Death — From BSE to Global Warming: Why Scares Are Costing Us the Earth.

But Chrysotile Institute president Clement Godbout says his organization actually has no position about the book's chapter on climate change.

He says his group is only promoting the book for outlining how the science of asbestos, and its potential health risks, have been systematically exaggerated by the "anti-asbestos lobby." THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Sierra Club

- The Sierra Club of Canada now urges the government to stop funding the Chrysotile Institute, which has received more than $20 million from the federal government since 1984.

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ScanLife

**Haiti's new prime minister arrives in Ottawa today with an unusual message: Haiti is open for business, and Canada is ready to help. Scan this barcode for the full story.**

## Ottawa **Wounded soldier carries the torch**

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Andrew Knisley, 25, looks up at the Olympic torch in front of the Olympic countdown clock in Ottawa yesterday. Knisley lost his leg while serving in Afghanistan in January 2009 and was released from the hospital just two weeks ago.**

## Diplomat yanked after allegedly spitting at cop

**TANZANIA** A Canadian diplomat has been called home from Tanzania after allegedly spitting at a police officer.

Tanzania's foreign minister identified Jean Touchatte, a private secretary at the Canadian High Commission, as the official involved in the Dec. 9 incident.

The Tanzanian government said Touchatte spat at the policeman during a traffic jam in the Dar es Salaam. He was questioned by police, but later released because of diplomatic immunity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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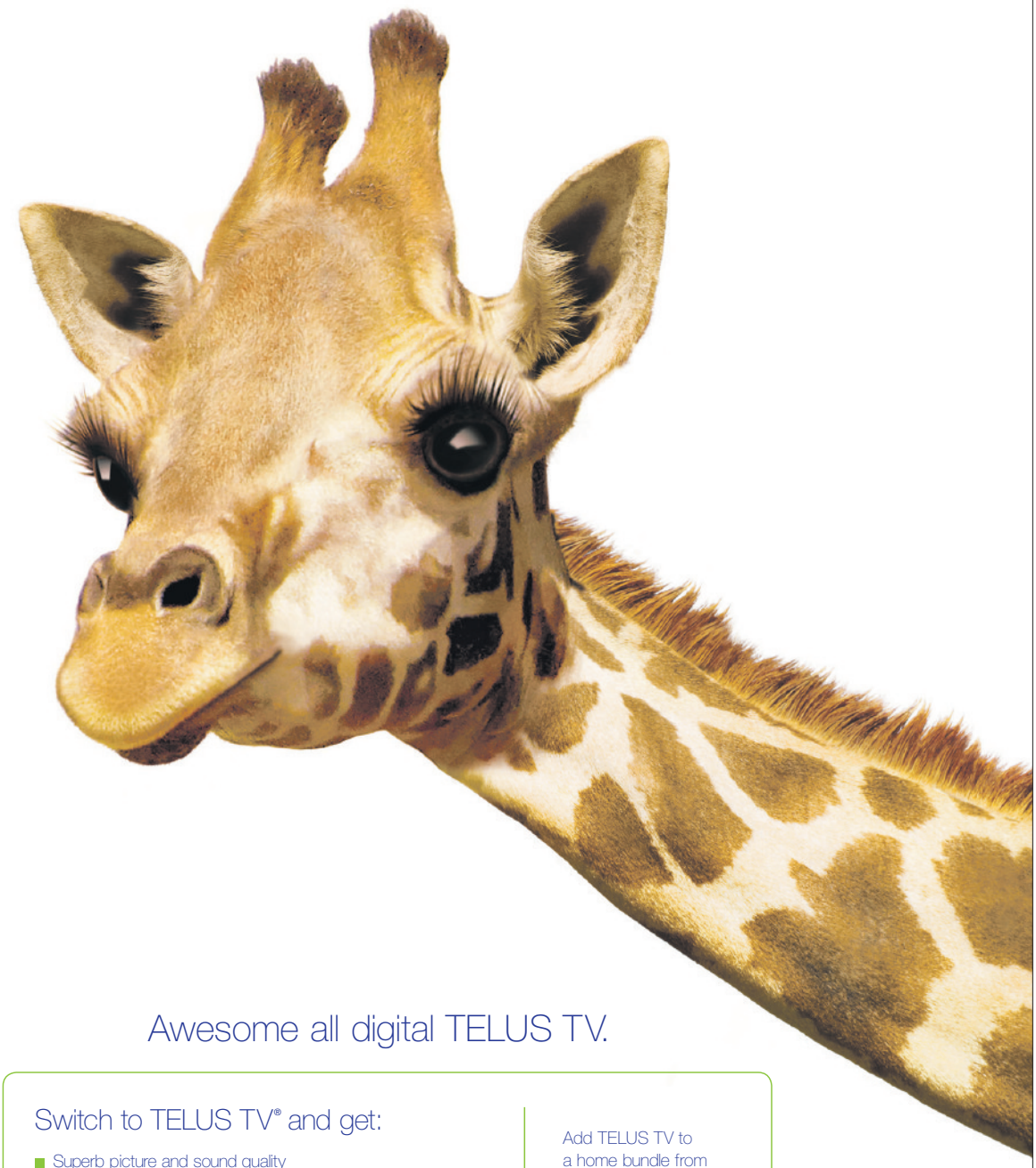

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**Violence predicted after slaying of Mexican activist**

The death of a Mexican activist who strongly opposed the presence of a Canadian company in his hometown is predicted to spur violent protests this week, with supporters already furious over his slaying suggesting a weekend clash at another Canadian-owned mine is a sign of things to come. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Sydney, N.S. **Community mourns death of boy**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

James Delorey's family, friends, his dog, Chance, and search personnel look on yesterday as the seven-year-old's casket is taken from a church in Sydney, N.S. The child wandered from his home last week and spent two nights lost in the woods. James later died in a Halifax hospital.

# Certificate struck down, suspect freed

## Almrei arrested on terror charges 8 years ago

**A federal judge has struck down a national-security certificate against a Syrian-born man arrested eight years ago on terror suspicions.**

The ruling yesterday by Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley effectively frees Hassan Almrei.

The government had been trying to deport Almrei on a security certificate — a seldom-used provision of the immigration law for removing suspected terrorists and spies.

Almrei's lawyer, Lorne Waldman, said from Toronto his client was "very excited" about the ruling. Waldman had not yet read the full decision, and said he and Almrei would comment later.

The government argued the Syrian native's travel, activities and involvement in a false-document ring were consistent with supporters of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The ruling says there were reasonable grounds to believe Almrei was a security danger when detained in October 2001, but there are no longer reasonable grounds to believe that today.

It also says federal cabinet ministers breached their duties of "good faith and candour" to the court by not thoroughly reviewing the information on file prior to re-issuing the certificate against Almrei in February of last year.

The case is another in a series of blows to the security-certificate law. The federal government has launched a sweeping review after acknowledging the system needs fixing.

The review could scrap or revamp the law used to arrest and deport non-Canadians considered a threat to national security.

Certificates have existed for three decades, and more than two dozen have been issued since 1991, when they became part of federal immigration law.

But recent cases have slowed to a crawl — or collapsed altogether — amid legal challenges and upbraidings from judges over miscues by Canada's spy agency.

Among critics, the deportation tool has come to symbolize the worst excesses of the fight against Islamic extremism. Opponents say the process is fundamentally unfair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Certificate cases

- The government has initiated just six certificate cases — four terror suspects, a hatemonger and an alleged Russian spy —since the 9-11 attacks on the United States.

## Deported alleged Sikh extremist missing

**BELIZE** Officials in Belize don't know what happened to an alleged Sikh extremist who made global waves when he bought a passport for the tropical paradise after being ordered out of Canada.

Iqbal Singh

Iqbal Singh has quietly vanished.

Ten years ago next month, Singh left Toronto for the Central American fun-and-sun destination.

His arrival in an unsuspecting Belize caused a media sensation. The spotlight glare was apparently intense enough to drive Singh from the oasis he found upon paying about $50,000 US for a passport through a since-cancelled immigrant investor program.

Singh was suspected of belonging to the Babbar Khalsa, a terrorist group intent on establishing a separate Sikh homeland.

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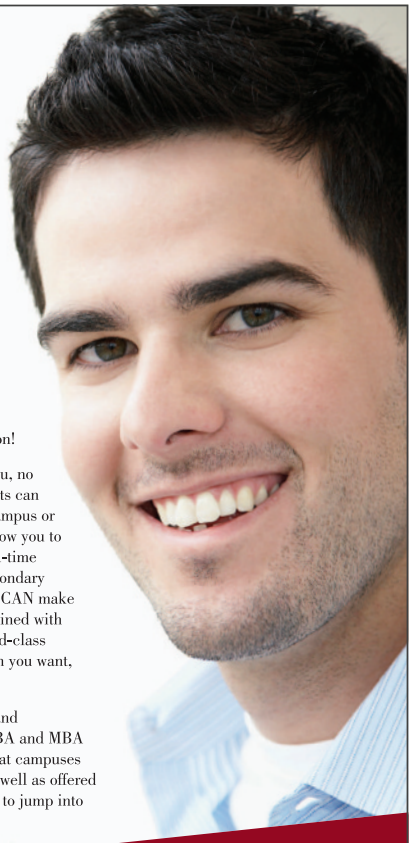

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## Alleged Ponzi trial delayed

**ALBERTA** The next court date for two men accused of defrauding global investors out of millions won't be until March so their lawyers can wade through 80,000 pages of documents.

Gary Sorenson and Milowe Brost are both charged with fraud and theft over $5,000 in the alleged Ponzi scheme.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## News in brief

**TRAIN** RCMP say a 29-year-old man came close to freezing to death after jumping onto a slow-moving train in central Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Falling televisions killing, injuring more children**
The number of children killed or injured by falling TV sets is increasing, even as people are replacing clunky older models with lighter flat-screens, a new study says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# World

## Nations end boycott

### Developing countries walked out over emissions

Go Green

**Poor countries ended a boycott of UN climate talks yesterday after getting assurances that rich nations were not conspiring to soften their commitments to cutting greenhouse gases, European officials said.**

European Union environment spokesman Andreas Carlgren said informal talks resolved the impasse, which was started by African countries and backed by major developing countries, including China and India.

Rich and poor countries "found a reasonable solution," he said. Developing countries agreed to return to all working groups that they abandoned earlier in the day at the 192-nation conference, said Anders Frandsen, a spokesman for conference president Connie Hedegaard.

A person dressed as death on horseback and holding a scythe rides outside parliament in Copenhagen yesterday.

The boycott had disrupted efforts to forge a pact on global warming and forced the cancellation of formal working groups, delaying the frantic work of negotiators trying to resolve technical issues before the arrival of more than 110 world leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, later this week.

The move was largely seen as a ploy to shift the agenda to the responsibilities of the industrial countries and make emissions reductions the first item for discussion today.

Poor countries, supported by China, said Hedegaard had raised suspicion that the conference was likely to kill the Kyoto Protocol. The United States withdrew from Kyoto over concerns that it would harm the U.S. economy and that China, India and other major greenhouse gas emitters were not required to take action.

China is now the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Argentina **Students protest dean's election**

ROLANDO ANDRADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A student throws a stone toward police to protest the re-election of the Buenos Aires University dean outside Congress in Buenos Aires, yesterday. Students consider the election illegal, claiming that the council that elects the dean lacks sufficient student representation.

## Women drowned, not raped and killed: Police

**KASHMIR** An Indian police agency investigating the deaths of two women in Kashmir said yesterday they drowned and were not raped and killed as alleged by locals, a ruling likely to further fuel anti-India sentiment.

The deaths of 22-year-old Neelofar Jan and her 17-year-old sister-in-law Asiya Jan in May ignited violent protests in the Himalayan region, where militant groups have fought Indian forces for independence or a union with Pakistan since 1989.

More than 68,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the uprising and subsequent Indian crackdown. The two women disappeared as they walked home from their family's apple orchard in Shopian, a town 60 kilometres south of Indian Kashmir's main city Srinagar.

Local authorities first said the women drowned when they found their bodies one kilometre apart along a shallow stream on May 30, but police later said the two had been raped and killed.

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**Sully auctions off hat**

Capt. Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger has auctioned one of his pilot's caps for $5,800 US and will donate the proceeds to three San Francisco Bay area public schools. The signed hat — which was not worn the day Sullenberger safely landed a disabled jet into New York's Hudson River — drew 68 bids on eBay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Crisis worsening in Sudan: Group

**AFRICA** At least 2,000 people have died and 250,000 have fled their homes following violence in southern Sudan this year, worsening a humanitarian crisis in a region seeking its independence, officials from a medical aid group said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Obama challenges U.S. banks

**U.S. President Barack Obama challenged top bankers yesterday to explore "every responsible way" to increase lending, saying they were obliged to help after being rescued by taxpayers.**

In a statement after more than an hourlong meeting with the executives, Obama said he reminded them that much of the financial crisis that took the U.S. banking system to the brink of collapse had been "of their own making."

He also exhorted the executives — both in private and in public — to drop their opposition to an overhaul of the nation's financial industry.

"If they wish to fight common sense consumer protections, that's a fight I'm more than willing to have," Obama told reporters at the White House.

He also urged lenders to find creative ways to free up lending. Obama said banks have benefited from bailouts and should use that strength to lend more money to consumer and businesses.

**"Given the exceptional assistance banks received to get them through a difficult time, we expect them to explore every responsible way to help get our economy moving again."**
U.S. President Barack Obama

"But given the difficulty businesspeople are having as lending has declined, and given the exceptional assistance banks received to get them through a difficult time," he said, "we expect them to explore every responsible way to help get our economy moving again."

Delay, he said, was not an option he was willing to consider as his administration has focused on digging out an economy that has left more than 15 million Americans out of work. Many Americans resent the help the government gave to wealthy bankers while seeming to ignore their difficulties.

Bank of America chief executive Kenneth Lewis pledged to Obama that his bank would lend $5 billion US more to small- and mid-sized businesses in 2010 than it did in 2009. The bank said the move is part of a broader effort to support an economic recovery.

JPMorgan said last month that it would boost such lending by $4 billion US.

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## News in brief

**WISCONSIN** Two women accused of seeking revenge on a cheating lover by gluing his penis to his stomach have reached plea deals. Forty-eight-year-old Therese Ziemann, pleaded no contest yesterday to reduced charges of disorderly conduct and misdemeanour battery. Her sister, 43-year-old Michelle Belliveau, pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct.

**FIJI** Thousands of Fiji villagers fled to shelters as a tropical cyclone battered the South Pacific nation, causing flooding, damaging homes and power lines, and killing three people, officials said yesterday.

**PHILIPPINES** Authorities moved thousands of villagers from harm's way near the Philippines' most active volcano yesterday after it oozed lava and shot plumes of ash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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## Comment

# What does future hold for MacKay?

NationalReport

In the Afghan detainee controversy, Peter MacKay's stonewalling and roughhouse takedown of a diplomat was characteristic of this government whenever it is accused of anything. Did the defence minister have any choice but to respond in the way he did?

If, in fact, he had a free hand and chose the stealth route, then yes, MacKay should resign. If his line of defence was dictated from above, then it becomes a tougher call. As he made clear yesterday, he will not step down. But in the rumoured cabinet shuffle, he should be moved out of defence.

MacKay is one of several holders of big portfolios who has stumbled. He is part of a starless cabinet, an unlit galaxy except for the one and only, the prime minister himself.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice has been beaten up for his inactivity on global warming, inactivity that sees this country collecting fossil-of-the-year awards. But has the foot-dragging been his doing? Apparently, it's the PM who has prevented him from taking swifter action. Before environment, Prentice held the thankless Indian affairs portfolio, where his main task was to ditch the Kelowna accord. Considered a future leadership contender, he has hardly been able to burnish his credentials.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has had a better year than ones previous. But he has been dragging around a lot of chains — the income trust flip-flop, the disastrous fiscal update of last year and his repeated underestimating of the federal deficit. Again the question needs to be asked — how many of the calls were his own?

The prime minister has some breathing room on the political calendar and could move one, all or none of the above. Strong performers like Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and Trade Minister Stockwell Day could be promoted. Long-serving Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, who is to the right of Sarah Palin, could be moved as well as Transport Minister John Baird, the Commons court jester who specializes in drubbing opponents. Taking him on is like arguing with a brass band.

One likely move will see Maxime Bernier, the former foreign minister who resigned after getting caught up in the biker-girl, lost-documents scandal, brought back to cabinet because he is popular in Quebec.

But no one is too excited about any pending changes. Usually, cabinet shuffles are a big deal. Not in Harperland. In his cabinets no one gets to be a heavyweight. They all bob around, waiting for the word from on high.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

## Views

# Afghan detainees: A moral dilemma

InStep

After the recent bout of public scrutiny over accusations by former senior Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin about Ottawa's indifference toward the torture of detainees in Afghanistan, we need to recall that, in 2005, former prime minister Paul Martin gave the thumbs up to then-defence minister Bill Graham to negotiate a detainee transfer agreement with the Afghanistan government.

At the root of this ongoing dilemma of how to process these detainees is our high regard for human rights: The golden element that keeps a robust flock of immigrants and refugees coming our way. Human rights is the cornerstone of our democracy. For this reason, we hold our authorities to a higher moral standard, having delegated ourselves the responsibility of being international role models, but we need to do so with understanding.

For instance, most of us cannot fathom the routine atrocities committed by many foreign regimes such as the Taliban, such as: Shooting eight boys to death because they laughed at Taliban fighters, mutilations, beatings, gang rapes and the torture of women and children. More frightening is that these atrocities represent the vision these barbaric insurgents hope to export to other parts of the world, with their deep-seated hatred and opposition to Western values.

Based on these facts, we need to appreciate that justice would be better served if groups like Amnesty International would up the ante in renouncing the heinous deeds of an enemy that has gone so far as to hide among civilians and disguise its members as emergency and media personnel.

These unlawful combatants are not protected by the Geneva Conventions, even though there are those who argue they should be. And they most certainly do not fall under our Charter of Rights of Freedoms. However, Justice Anne McTavish did rule that Afghan detainees do have rights under their own constitution and international law.

Given the prior floods of accusations about the Western lack of respect for the sovereignty of foreign governments, how do we justify bypassing Afghanistan's own rules of engagement, albeit primitive? According to Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, progress is happening as Afghan authorities are being receptive to Canada's advice on how to treat detainees.

We need to exercise patience and support of ongoing efforts to work out a moral solution concerning these detainees.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

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**RBC Dominion advisers allegedly aided tax evasion**
Canada Revenue Agency alleges investment advisers at a branch of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. helped clients set up offshore accounts that were used to evade taxes, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Canadians deeper in debt

**The latest report on household debt from Statistics Canada carries a sober message: Collectively, Canadians are deeper in debt than ever before.**

But economists say that record-low interest rates mean that debt loads are still manageable and will likely improve as the economy begins to recover from the depths of the recession.

The StatsCan report, released yesterday, comes on the heels of a stern warning about rising debt issued last week by the Bank of Canada.

Surging stock markets pushed up Canadians' net worth in the third quarter, StatsCan said in its report. Canada's premier stock market, the S&P/TSX Composite Index rose 9.8 per cent in the third quarter.

That's on top of a 19 per cent gain in the previous three months.

Household net worth, the value of families' assets such as cars, homes, savings accounts and investments, minus what they owe, reached $5.72 trillion at the end of September, StatsCan said.

That's an increase of 2.3 per cent, marking two quarters of gains after three consecutive drops.

But household debt also went up. It rose from July to September as Canadians rushed to take advantage of low interest rates.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

m.metronews.ca
ScanLife
Abu Dhabi keeps Dubai afloat with a $10-billion injection to help its neighbour cover debt payments. Scan this barcode for the full article.

## Business in brief

**WIRELESS** New wireless phone company Wind Mobile has allied itself with movie and game rental chain Blockbuster Canada and will begin sales from outlets in Toronto and Calgary in the near future.

**BAILOUT** Citigroup Inc. said yesterday it is repaying $20 billion US in bailout money it received from the Treasury Department, in an effort to reduce government influence over the banking giant. The government will also sell its stake in the company.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Higher interest rates coming: RBC

**MONEY** The Royal Bank says Canadians can expect to be hit by higher interest rates in the second half of next year and in 2011.

**GDP**
- A new forecast by RBC Economics predicts real gross domestic product to rise by 2.6 per cent next year and 3.9 per cent in 2011.

Royal Bank economists say the Bank of Canada will be among the next group of central banks to move off floor-low rates, with the Canadian bank's overnight rate finishing 2010 at 1.25 per cent.

And RBC economists say they believe the trend-setting rate could rise to as much as 3.5 per cent in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Interest rates/Savings accounts** (Please check bank websites as some rates require minimum account balance)

| BMO | CIBC | HSBC | ICICI | ING | PCF | RBC | SBIC | Scotia | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.00% | 0.75% | 0.65% | 1.20% | 1.05% | 1.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 1.00% | 0.75% |

## Your Money

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

# Most memorable gifts

AlisonOnMoney

A few days ago I was thinking about the most memorable gifts I've ever received. Interestingly, there wasn't a purchased one on the list. Here are some of my top picks to give you a few ideas as the final countdown to Christmas begins.

A few days after my husband and I lost a beloved dog, a friend dropped off a gift basket for us which cheered us up immeasurably.

She's a single working parent with two young boys so money isn't exactly plentiful. But everything was perfect. There were hand picked flowers, several jars of jam made by one of her boys and some biscuits for our other dog. It brought tears to our eyes.

My sister works in theatre — not exactly the richest field — so she paints lovely cards which I use year round and I always receive the nicest comments when I send them out.

A dear friend gave me homemade body scrub last year smelling wonderfully of honey and lavender. She's a busy woman with a television career and I appreciate the time she spent in her kitchen making my gift.

My husband's late godfather specialized in making electrical fixtures out of found items. Every Christmas he gave us a whimsical lamp which cost him nothing but time.

When my husband was an impoverished college student he made me a sand cast candle in the colours of the season with cute decorations imbedded in it. No diamond ring could have won my heart more quickly than his slightly tilted, red wax tower.

Note to guys: Forget the mall. Make something for your best beloved and she will swoon with surprise and delight.

The secret to thoughtful but inexpensive presents is putting a little effort into the conception and execution of the gift. The ads are screaming 10 shopping days left until Christmas! Consider instead 10 thinking and doing days left until Christmas.

**Alison's Money Rule:**

• With gifts, the thought really does count. Dip into your time instead of your wallet and the results will be inexpensive and memorable.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

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# RRSP season looming

Investing

What should investors think this RRSP season?

If economists are correct and interest rates rise next year, anyone that has loans that are tied to the prime rate (variable loans) will experience higher interest rate charges. Investors need to prepare for this. More of an individual's debt repayment will go towards interest costs.

Regarding investments themselves, anyone who is in a fixed rate security like a bond, could see the price of that security fall. Bond funds or other managed products that invest in fixed income securities could see prices fall. Please remember for those that own individual fixed income securities like individual government or corporate bonds, your pricing will be affected as well but if you own these products to maturity, you will get your original investment back (face value).

A slow interest rate increase should not influence fixed income products too much at first. The environment for this year will still be great for individual investors to grow their portfolios.

Allan Small can be reached at asmall@dundeesecurities.com The views expressed are not necessarily those of Dundee Securities

# Tips for philanthropists

MoneyMatters

**Q Do I have to make my donation before the end of the year or can I contribute before Feb. 28, 2010? Are there any limits to my gift?**
**— Randy**

**A** For a 2009 tax deduction, charitable donations must be made before the end of the year. A 15 per cent tax credit is allowed on the first $200 with amounts over $200 at 29 per cent tax rate. Partners should combine their donation and utilize the five-year carry-forward period to maximize the deduction. Annual deductions are limited to 75 per cent of net income with excess amounts carried forward.

Nicola Elkins, CEO and founder of Benefaction Foundation and author of Master your Philanthropy has some tips:

• Make gifts of securities instead of cash. Receive a tax credit for donation and pay no capital gains tax.

• Limit tax for estate by gifting your RRSP or RRIF. Naming a charity as beneficiary for your RRSP or RRIF can eliminate tax.

• Executives should consider donating optioned stock. Like public securities, donated portion may incur no capital gain tax.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

# 'Tis the season for financial resolutions

The holiday season can be wonderful, but also financially stressful. According to Jeffrey F. Schwartz, executive director of Consolidated Credit Counseling Services of Canada, more Canadians every year start off January with a massive debt on their shoulders.

"According to current research by financial institutions, almost half a million Canadians are behind on credit card payments by 90 days or more. That's three months worth of interest charges that are snowballing," said Schwartz.

Schwartz has suggestions for an action plan:

• Sit down with your family and write out a budget.

• Total up the amount you owe on each credit card.

**"Almost half a million Canadians are behind on credit card payments by 90 days or more."**
Jeffrey F. Schwartz

• Decide how you want to tackle your debt, whether it's better budgeting, household cutbacks or extra income.

• Paying off the highest interest rate debt first. Move to other debt from there.

• Write down what you are spending. By keeping track of financial transactions, a pattern will appear and it becomes easier to pinpoint and stop bad habits. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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**Fitzgerald hurt**

Arizona star receiver Larry Fitzgerald left the Cardinals game against the San Francisco 49ers with a sprained right knee. Fitzgerald was hurt on the third play of the third quarter last night when he tried to catch a deep pass from Kurt Warner. The 49ers won 24-9. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Sports

## Argos dump coach

Bart Andrus has paid the price for a 3-15 season. The Toronto Argonauts have fired the first-year head coach after finishing as the worst team in the CFL. The 51-year-old Andrus was named the Argos' 40th head coach on Jan. 16. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

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# Canucks halt Kings' quest

NHL

Kings 1 Canucks 3

AT

**Ryan Kesler scored once and set up the insurance goal as the Vancouver Canucks beat the L.A. Kings 3-1 last night.**

Sami Salo and Mason Raymond also scored for the Canucks. Raymond added an assist.

The Canucks (19-14-0) posted their third straight win and jumped over the Detroit Red Wings into a tie for eighth place in the Western Conference with the Dallas Stars.

The Kings (21-11-3) were denied a chance to move into first place overall in the NHL. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canuck Steve Bernier checks Los Angeles King Dustin Brown in front of goalie Roberto Luongo as Justin Williams skates past, last night in Vancouver.

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**Whitecaps women's team hires coach**
The Vancouver Whitecaps women's team has hired Hubert Busby Jr. as its new head coach. The 40-year-old, who was born in Toronto and grew up in Kingston, Ont., was an assistant coach with the Los Angeles Sol in their inaugural season of the Women's Professional Soccer in 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Halladay trade headlines busy day in baseball

**Baseball's hot stove started sizzling yesterday, with Roy Halladay, John Lackey, Hideki Matsui and Mike Cameron all set to switch teams.**

The Phillies have a tentative agreement to acquire Halladay in a trade with Toronto, and the former Cy Young Award winner was in Philadelphia yesterday for a physical required to complete the deal. Philadelphia also was discussing a trade that would send Cliff Lee, another former Cy Young winner, to Seattle.

Roy Halladay

The retooling Red Sox made two key moves in one day, reaching tentative agreements on a five-year contract with pitcher John Lackey worth $80 million to $85 million US and a two-year deal with outfielder Mike Cameron for about $15 million US.

World Series MVP Hideki Matsui headed west, reaching a preliminary agreement with the Los Angeles Angels on a one-year contract worth about $6.5 million US.

Halladay has been coveted by top clubs for months, and the commissioner's office granted a 72-hour window on Sunday for Toronto and Philadelphia to complete their trade, a baseball official familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press yesterday.

Philadelphia could give up pitchers J.A. Happ, Joe Blanton and outfielder Dominic Brown as part of a deal, the person said. Those three players also took physicals in Philadelphia. Lee, who like Halladay is eligible for free agency after next season, could wind up going to the Mariners, the baseball official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Sports in brief

**DRUGS** A Canadian doctor who has treated sprinter Donovan Bailey, figure skater Patrick Chan, golfer Tiger Woods and NFL players is suspected of providing athletes with performance-enhancing drugs, according to a newspaper report. The New York Times reported on its website last night that Dr. Anthony Galea was found with human growth hormone and Actovegin, a drug extracted from calf's blood, in his bag at the U.S.-Canada border in late September.

**INVESTIGATION** A coach on Canada's long-track speedskating team is under investigation in the Netherlands after allegations of trying to buy a spot in the 5,000-metre race at the 2006 Olympics. Ingrid Paul and Dutch skater Gretha Smit have been accused of offering Poland's Katarzyna Wojcicka 50,000 euros ($77,800) for her starting spot in the race.

**NHL** Los Angeles goaltender Jonathan Quick has earned the NHL's first star of the week award after helping the Kings leap to the top of the Western Conference. Vancouver Canucks winger Daniel Sedin earned the second star, while Phoenix Coyotes goaltender Ilya Bryzgalov was the third star winner.

**BASEBALL** Baseball commissioner Bud Selig plans to establish a study group that will examine on-field issues that could include replay, umpires and pace of game.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SCOREBOARD

**NHL**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 3 Ottawa 2
Florida 7 N.Y. Islanders 1
Philadelphia 3 Boston 1
Atlanta 3 N.Y. Rangers 2 (SO)
Nashville 5 Columbus 3
Buffalo 4 Montreal 3
Detroit 3 Phoenix 2
**VANCOUVER 3 Los Angeles 1**

**NBA**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 110 Memphis 105
Dallas 94 New Orleans 90
Denver 102 Oklahoma City 93
Minnesota 110 Utah 108
Orlando 106 Indiana 98
Philadelphia 117 Golden State 101
Washington at L.A. Clippers

**NFL**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

San Francisco 24 Arizona 9

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**Pretty Woman signs on him beauty product line**
Julia Roberts, who most famously played a sex-trade worker in the movie Pretty Woman, has been named ambassador for the beauty product line Lancôme. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Health & Beauty

## Nothing says I love you like a billy goat

When asked what she wanted for Christmas, R&B singer Rihanna told a British television interviewer that she wants some "great food and great sex." The latter may be a little hard to wrap, but how about a gift that may just lead to some greatness in that department? Dr. Todd Sellick says that the biggest problem couples face when it comes to sex is not knowing each other's fantasies or expectations. That's why he and his wife Jan developed A Private Affair: The Erotic Game of Secrets, Plans & Promises for Couples, a 500-card game that facilitates the sharing of sexual secrets, opinions, and requests among other things. $34.99 Available through aprivateaffairgame.com

Express your love for your partner by being selfless. OXFAM Canada has a number of ways you can help others from buying a goat for someone in the developing world or by supporting home-based care workers who attend to people suffering from HIV and AIDS. $15 Chicken/$58 Goat/$150 AIDS/HIV home care. Available at oxfamunwrapped.ca

Finally, you don't need to spend a lot of money to come up with a romantic gift for your sweetie. Do what author Ellen Green did. She kept an ongoing list of every sweet, remarkable and unremarkable thing her husband did throughout the year. She published the best of 20 years of lists in Remember the Sweet Things: One List, Two Lives, and Twenty Years of Marriage. Start now, you should have a list by next Christmas.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

PHOTOS.COM

A new study has shown that perscription pain killers were linked to more deaths than heroin.

## Prescription pain killers

### Opioid-related deaths double since 1991

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

**They kill pain but they also kill people. A new Canadian study has found that deaths from prescription pain medications are on the rise.**

"More people will die from prescription painkillers in 2009 than from H1N1," Dr. Irfan Dhalla told Metro in an email.

Dhalla is lead author of the study and a clinician-scientist at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Dhalla and his colleagues examined trends in the prescribing of opioid painkillers in Ontario from 1991 to 2007. Common opioids include Oxycontin, Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol with codeine, Demerol, and morphine. These painkillers are often prescribed for acute pain, such as post-surgery pain or the pain associated with a broken bone. They may be used also for severe chronic pain, such as from some forms of cancer. Doctors are now also prescribing opioids for less-severe pain, such as chronic back pain.

When researchers studied data for all deaths from 1991 to 2004, they found that opioid-related deaths doubled in that period, from 13.7 per million in 1991 to 27.2 per million in 2004. Prescribing of oxycodone — the active ingredient in Oxycontin — has risen very rapidly. From 1999 to 2004, the number of deaths related to oxycodone rose fivefold, says Dhalla.

There are far more deaths in Ontario from prescription painkillers than from heroin or cocaine, noted the study.

## When healthy eating becomes harmful living

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

**DIETING** Healthy eating: Some people take it too far.

When people eliminate large numbers of foods in the name of health and then become obsessive-compulsive about food, this could signal they have a type of eating disorder.

Although "healthy eating disorder," or orthorexia nervosa as it is called, is not formally recognized as a mental illness, it does exist and is increasingly being noticed, says Colorado physician Steven Bratman, author of Health Food Junkies.

Orthorexia nervosa begins with a desire to avoid foods that are unhealthy, such as junk food. More and more foods end up on the "bad" list over time. Avoidance becomes fear and then sufferers develop an obsession with finding foods that won't make them sick.

They lose weight, and sometimes it is hard to find enough to eat in order to carry on normal activities in their day-to-day life.

If you have a friend who fits this scenario and suspect they may be in need of help you should suggest that they see their physician.

## Soy, pistachios, hops potential shields against cancer

Together, it would be hard to imagine an appealing recipe for these three fixings: Soy, pistachios and hops.But individually, the foodstuffs may hold ingredients that can help control a trio of the most common forms of cancer, according to three new studies released last week

In the most important of these, a major new paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that soy could dramatically decrease the risk of tumour recurrence among breast cancer survivors.

"I would say that this study would indicate that women with breast cancer should (eat) soy products," says Dr. Xiao Ou Shu, an epidemiologist at Nashville's Vanderbilt University Medical Centre who authored the study. "I think that it shows there is protection there."

Meanwhile, papers being presented at the American Association of Cancer Research conference in Houston this week are extolling the virtues of pistachios and hops as potential cancer shields.

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**Food bank help**
Loblaw is introducing a new "Extra Helping" logo to be placed in store aisles alongside the food items most needed by the local food bank, such as canned fish or meat, lentils and beans and hot/cold cereal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Food

## Pile up your cone

Cuisipro's newfangled Ice Cream Scoop & Stack creates stackable cylinders for cones as well as "elegant desserts," as the makers say. This is not a quick tool: You shove the scoop into a tub of ice cream, using a pull, twist, push and release sequence to create your cylinder. The results can be fun and colourful though. The Scoop & Stack retails for $19.99 at kitchen shops. It is dishwasher-safe and is available in a variety of colours. For the nearest store, call 1-866-306-3672 (toll-free). TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

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**Peter Rockwell**

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## Pour like Santa

Well here we are at the holiday home stretch. Thanks to my wife's expertise in the kitchen — and the central location of the Rockwell mansion — we tend to play host for the big family feast and what seems like a never-ending stream of well wishers.

They all arrive thirsty so finding drinkable wine options that let you pour like Santa, even though you've spent like Scrooge, is every host's Christmas wish. Since trying to appeal to a variety of personal preferences is never easy, I recommend going with a bright, fruity red and a fresh, dry white with an eye on larger format bottles to save a few bucks.

An Aussie shiraz is the quintessential cocktail red (meaning it shines without food) with Lindemans 2008 Bin 50 Shiraz (1500 ml, $22.95 — $24.99) a jammy mix of black raspberry, red licorice and a lingering touch of pepper spice.

For a crisp, straightforward white, think Italy and Fontana di Papa's 2008 Colli Albani (1000 ml, $8.35 — $10.79): a classic bargain blend of malvasia and trebbiano that's ripe with refreshing green fruit and tastes best served ice cold right out of the fridge.

# A casserole fit for a cowboy

### Cowboy Casserole

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 1/3 lb (600 g) unpeeled baking potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 Tbsp (20 mL) olive oil
- 1 tsp (5 mL) tomato paste
- 14 oz (398 mL) can baked beans
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen peas
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen green beans
- 7 oz (200 g) can corn, drained
- 2 Tbsp (25 mL) barbecue sauce
- 3 1/2 oz (100 g) smoked cheese, roughly chopped

**METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Put potatoes into pot of boiling water. Bring back to boil; half-cover and simmer until just tender, but not breaking up. Drain thoroughly, reserving 4 tbsp (60 mL) cooking water. Tip potatoes into bowl, add oil and toss to coat. Set aside.

2. Blend tomato paste with reserved hot water in pot. Tip in baked beans, peas, green beans, corn and barbecue sauce. Heat gently, stirring, until mixture is barely warm and peas and green beans have thawed. Tip into shallow casserole dish, spreading into even layer. Scatter over cubes of smoked cheese.

3. Arrange potato slices over top, overlapping slightly to completely cover bean and cheese mixture. Bake 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown.

Cowboy Casserole from Reader's Digest.

### Salmon Puffs with Tzatziki

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 3/4 lb (375 g) pack pre-rolled puff pastry
- 5 1/3 oz (160 g) skinless salmon fillet, cut into 1/2-in. (1 cm) squares
- 1/4 lb (125 g) frozen fava beans
- 1 oz (30 g) fresh dill, chopped
- 1 oz (30 g) snipped fresh chives
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cucumber
- 1 cup (250 mL) plain yogurt

**METHOD:**

1. Remove pastry from fridge. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Put salmon squares in bowl and add frozen fava beans and herbs. Season and mix well.

2. Unroll pastry, then cut into four 7 x 3 1/3 -in. (17.5 x 8.5 cm) pieces. Brush egg lightly all over pastry. Mound salmon mixture in centres of pastry pieces. Place ricotta cheese on each mound of filling. Fold long ends of pastry up to meet over filling and pinch together at top. Press sides together to seal.

3. Transfer pastries to baking sheet and brush with egg. Bake until puffed and golden.

4. Meanwhile, grate cucumber into sieve and press out excess moisture over sink. Mix cucumber into yogurt. Transfer tzatziki to serving bowl and serve with hot salmon puffs.

### Brie Turkey Pockets with Cabbage and Walnuts

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 oz (30 g) fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 dessert apple, peeled, cored and grated
- 4 thick turkey breasts
- 5 oz (150 g) brie, cut into 4 wedges
- 3 Tbsp (45 mL) olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) green cabbage, finely shredded
- 8 scallions, sliced
- 1 3/4 oz (50 g) walnuts, chopped

**METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Mix ginger and apple. Cut horizontally through each turkey breast (not all the way through). Divide ginger and apple mixture among pockets, then push wedge of cheese into each. Press meat together into shape and push filling evenly in pockets.

2. Put pockets neatly in one layer in shallow ovenproof dish. Brush with 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and sprinkle with seasoning to taste. Bake until turkey is browned on top and cooked through, and filling is running out in places.

3. Meanwhile, heat remaining oil in large pan and add cabbage, scallions and walnuts. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until cabbage is reduced in volume and lightly cooked. Add seasoning to taste. Transfer pockets to plates. Add some cabbage to each plate and serve immediately.

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

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**AFI's top 10 movies**

The American Film Institute has announced its list of Top 10 movies with honours going to Coraline, The Hangover, The Hurt Locker, The Messenger, Precious, A Serious Man, A Single Man, Sugar, Up and Up in the Air. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Entertainment

**Viking voyage**

Leonardo DiCaprio is set to star in a film directed by Mel Gibson that's set in the world of Viking culture, Variety reports. The script is by the writer who won an Oscar for The Departed. EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

## Basterds, Nine lead Critics' Choice pack

**MOVIE** Inglourious Basterds and Nine lead contenders for the Critics' Choice Movie Awards with 10 nominations each, including best picture.

Other best-picture nominees are Avatar, An Education, The Hurt Locker, Invictus, Precious, A Serious Man, Up and Up in the Air. Best-actor nominees are Jeff Bridges for Crazy Heart, George Clooney for Up in the Air, Colin Firth for A Single Man, Morgan Freeman for Invictus, Viggo Mortensen for The Road and Jeremy Renner for Hurt Locker.

## L.A. awards go to Mo'Nique, Waltz

**MOVIES** Mo'Nique has won the supporting-actress award for Precious and Christoph Waltz has earned the supporting-actor prize for Inglourious Basterds from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

Mo'Nique won for her role as a hateful welfare mom in Precious. Waltz for his role as a savage Nazi in Inglourious Basterds. Jason Reitman and writer Sheldon Turner shared the screenplay prize for Up in the Air. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 'Strange' job rewarded

## Johnny Depp accepts Bahamas lifetime achievement award

**Hollywood heartthrob Johnny Depp suspects he'll never get used to receiving awards for his acting work.**

Depp, best known for his Oscar-nominated role as Captain Jack Sparrow in Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean blockbusters, made the comments Sunday night before receiving a career achievement award at the Bahamas International Film Festival.

"Whenever anybody says they are going to give me some kind of award, I'm always a little stupefied by the notion. The first thing I say is 'why?'," Depp told a small scrum of reporters. "I just go to work like anyone else, except my job happens to be a little stranger."

Lit by cameras during a red carpet event, Depp said he planned on spending Christmas on his private island ringed with white sand off Exuma.

"The place is as close to paradise as anywhere you can get," said Depp, wearing a black pinstriped suit and tinted glasses with heavy black frames.

> **"I'm still amazed I get jobs after all this time."**
> Johnny Depp

Fellow acting superstar Sean Connery, who also owns a home in the Bahamas, presented Depp with the award at the Balmoral Club in Nassau.

The festival's founder, Leslie Vanderpool, described Depp as an "icon" who is one of the finest actors of his generation.

"What makes this tribute to Johnny even more special is that he has a home in the Bahamas and possesses a true love and appreciation for the region and culture," Vanderpool said in a statement.

Depp's diverse screen credits through the years include starring roles in Donnie Brasco, Edward Scissorhands, and What's Eating Gilbert Grape.

In September, Disney announced that a new Pirates of the Caribbean film is on the horizon. Depp will reprise his celebrated role as Sparrow in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, slated for summer of 2011.

Depp said he's enjoyed playing all of his screen characters.

"I'm still amazed I get jobs after all this time," he quipped.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Depp received a career achievement award at the Bahamas International Film Festival.

# John K. Samson stripped away

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

**We know what you're thinking: "John K. Samson ... why does that name ring a bell?"**

It shouldn't be a surprise that Samson's name evokes familiarity. He's been around. Punk rockers recall his stint as bassist for political outfit Propagandhi while those who lean towards radio-friendly music have likely heard his enticingly voice at the helm of indie act The Weakerthans.

Yet when Samson hits the stage, all of that will be stripped away. He is currently performing solo in support of his latest endeavour, the EP City Route 85.

While it's not unheard of for lead singers to venture forth with their own music, Samson's foray features a unique twist. The three-song release is his first in a collection of four efforts dedicated to and inspired by his native Winnipeg's streets. "Most people wouldn't know it — including most 'Peggers — but City Route 85 is actually our main street commonly referred to as Portage Avenue," he notes.

Such a revelation led to the notion of dedicating a series of EPs to municipal and provincial thoroughfares. Samson's idea is a strange path of its own. Still, the yield in songs such as Grace General, Cruise Night and the title track make it worthwhile.

"I like the idea of a focused theme — exploring contemporary small-town life," he beams before admitting, "So far, it's only a project I work on when I have the time. I have the next one sketched out."

John K. Samson

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**Kid Rock, Grohl sue bar**

Kid Rock and Dave Grohl are suing a small town bar for allegedly jacking their tunes. The two rockers dropped a copyright infringement lawsuit on a Canton, Ohio watering hole because it allegedly didn't have the licensing it needed to play their music. TMZ.COM

## DVD picks

### Inglourious Basterds

**Director: Quentin Tarantino**

**PURE WISH-FULFILMENT** fantasy by Quentin Tarantino (Once upon a time in Nazi-occupied France...), in which Hitler and his stooges stand to get what's coming to them, in a way that makes cinema itself seem like the grand liberator.

Grammatically challenged, factually unhinged and too long for its own good, this World War II thriller nevertheless soars thanks to one glorious performance — and it's not the one you think.

Top-billed Brad Pitt is merely amusing as Tennessee moonshiner Lt. Aldo The Apache Raine, who leads scalp-hunting Jewish-American soldiers against Hitler in Nazi-occupied France. But he's almost a Sgt. Rock parody and he's MIA for vast stretches.

The film's real star is Austria's Christoph Waltz, a multilingual wizard who inhabits the role of Col. Hans Landa, the smirking Gestapo officer known as "The Jew Hunter" for his uncanny sleuthing.

Heads are sliced and skulls are smashed — the latter being the specialty of Eli Roth's character, wild-eyed baseball nut Sgt. Donny Donowitz. But the film is less violent than the bloodthirsty ads suggest, and also less so than Tarantino's Kill Bill saga.

These Basterds blend into a much richer story, a revisionist romp with stars you don't immediately see shining.

Extras include a roundtable discussion with Tarantino, Pitt and film writer Elvis Mitchell and several featurettes, including Making of Nation's Pride and The Original Inglorious Bastards.

### The Hangover

**Director: Todd Phillips**

**A NO-STAR** cast takes a shop-worn theme about boys being bad in Las Vegas, and turns it into something fresh, funny and profitable — $277 million US for the domestic market, enough to make it history's most successful "R" rated comedy. Take that, Hollywood know-it-alls!

This is one clever little film. Director Todd Phillips and scripters Jon Lucas and Scott Moore cleverly keep us in suspense about how the monster hangover happened. First they show us the aftermath as three confused groomsmen (Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis) turn Vegas upside down in their quest for their missing groom (Justin Bartha) after their bachelor party goes hilariously awry.

### Taking Woodstock

**Director: Ang Lee**

**EXTREMELY TRIVIAL** pursuit: Who rented the motel rooms to the guys who did the Woodstock Festival?

Elliot Teichberg, sweetly rendered in Taking Woodstock by comedian Demetri Martin, was that momentous innkeeper of the El Monaco motel. Ang Lee's enshrinement of this fact owes more to his desire to make a comic film after numerous dramas than to any serious pursuit of history.

With no real point to make, Lee and screenwriter James Schamus simply get high from the fumes, offering a character-rich ramble that's more like Robert Altman's Nashville than Michael Wadleigh's Woodstock.

**Peter Howell/for Metro Canada**

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# Court rules for hospital extension

**ASSAULT** A British court has ordered a man to remain hospitalized after he admitted assaulting singer Leona Lewis during a book signing session.

Peter Kowalczyk had been charged with punching the pop star in the face as she went to sign his copy of her autobiography in central London on Oct. 14.

Kowalczyk pleaded guilty to common assault. A judge ordered the 29-year-old to remain in the hospital under mental health laws.

Prosecutor Melanie Lee, reading out a witness statement by Lewis, said Monday the singer felt completely devastated by the attack. In the statement Lewis says: "Now I am very frightened about going out in public."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

| VA | Vu | SC | C | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| primetime 12/15/09 | 251 | 308 | 3 CBC | Wheel Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | Xmas Carol | Frosty | Legend of Frosty | | CBC News: The National (N) | | (:05) The Hour |
| | 254 | - | 8 OMNI | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | Omni News: Mandarin Edition | | News: Cantonese Edition | | Omni News: Punjabi Edition | | The Simpsons |
| | 250 | 321 | 9 CTV | etalk (CC) | Access H. | So You Think You Can Dance | | Flashpoint "Perfect Storm" | | Flashpoint "Exit Wounds" | | CTV News |
| | - | - | 10 JOY | Frasier (CC) | The Insider | Islam 101 (CC) | | Enigma (CC) | | P3 | Ek Noor | New Day |
| | 252 | 336 | 11 GTV | Entertainment | ET Canada | NCIS "Faith" (N) (CC) | | Gordon Ramsay: Cook | | The Good Wife "Lifeguard" | | News |
| | 256 | 389 | 12 VI | Degrassi: TNG | TMZ (N) (CC) | Lies My Mother Told Me (2005) Joely Richardson. (CC) | | | | Stargate Atlantis | | A News (N) |
| | 253 | 359 | 13 CITY | The Office | The Office | Scrubs (CC) | Scrubs (CC) | Scrubs (N) | Better Off Ted | The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC) | | The CityNews |
| | - | - | 14 CW | The Office | The Office | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Frasier (CC) |
| | 289 | 381 | 15 CBS | Entertainment | The Insider | NCIS "Faith" (N) (CC) | | NCIS: Los Angeles (N) (CC) | | The Good Wife "Lifeguard" | | KIRO 7 News |
| | 287 | 379 | 16 NBC | Evening Mag. | Inside Edition | The Sing-Off "Big Hits & Guilty Pleasures" Two groups leave. | | | | The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC) | | KING 5 News |
| | 602 | 568 | 19 W | Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama) Amber Benson. | | | | Eve's Christmas (2004) Elisa Donovan, Cheryl Ladd. | | | | Grocery Bag |
| | 288 | 380 | 21 ABC | Wheel Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | A Charlie Brown Christmas | | Scrubs (N) | Better Off Ted | the forgotten "Football John" | | KOMO 4 News |
| | - | - | 23 KVOS | M*A*S*H | Seinfeld | Chilly Dogs ★ (2001) Skeet Ulrich, Natasha Henstridge. | | | | Seinfeld | King | Cheers (CC) |
| | 291 | 383 | 27 PBS | The National Parks: America's Best Idea "Great Nature (1933-1945)" (CC) (DVS) | | | | | | Independent Lens (N) | | UltraMind |
| | 290 | 382 | 28 FOX | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | So You Think You Can Dance | | Gordon Ramsay: Cook | | Q13 FOX News at Ten (N) | | Family Guy |
| | - | 364 | 48 PBS | To Be Announced | | Rain 2: A Tribute to the Beatles | | | Doo Wop 50 The history and style of doo-wop. (CC) | | | |
| | 296 | 654 | 34 SBK | The Office | Name Is Earl | Frasier (CC) | '70s Show | South Park | Half & Half | Paid Program | Hatchett | Cricut Exp. |
| | 298 | 653 | 35 TLA | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | KTLA Prime News (N) (CC) | | Friends (CC) |
| | 295 | 651 | 36 WGN | Basketball | WGN News | Family Guy | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | The Vampire Diaries (CC) | | Maury (CC) | |
| | 297 | 652 | 37 WPX | PIX News at Ten Tong. (N) | | Two/Half Men | Friends (CC) | Friends (CC) | According-Jim | Family Guy | South Park | Scrubs (CC) |
| | 199 | 311 | 76 STR | CTV News | NTV Latenight News | | Late Show W/Letterman | | Late Late Show/Ferguson | | Inside Edition | Seinfeld |
| news | 502 | 390 | 26 NW | CBC News: the fifth estate | | CBC News: The National (N) | | CBC News: The National (N) | | CBC News: the fifth estate | | National |
| | 500 | 500 | 53 CNN | Anderson Cooper 360 (CC) | | | | Larry King Live | | Anderson Cooper 360 (CC) | | Cooper 360 |
| sports | 407 | 419 | 22 RSP | Olympics: Away From Home | | Hockey | UFC: Access | The Ultimate Fighter | | Sportsnet Connected (Live) | | Sportsnet |
| | 400 | 400 | 60 TSN | Women's Hockey Canada vs. United States. From Calgary, Alta. (Taped) | | | | | Boxing Chad Dawson vs. Glen Johnson. | | | SportsCentre |
| | 411 | 457 | 49 OLN | Ghost Hunters International | | Bounty Hunter | Bounty Hunter | Survivorman (CC) | | Ghost Hunters International | | Bounty Hunter |
| | 410 | 403 | 54 SCR | (5:00) Court Surfing | | Score Now | | Score Now | | Score Now | | Final Score |
| | 417 | 406 | 55 SC | Dangerous Drives | | Pass Time | Pass Time | Monster Jam | | Super Bikes! | Super Bikes! | Drives |
| | 416 | 409 | 144 GLF | Fútbol Uruguayo | | MLS Weekly | Gol TV News | Toronto-Today | MLS Weekly | Paid Program | Gol TV News | Gol TV News |
| family | 552 | 543 | 25 YTV | OddParents | Flintstones | Malcolm-Mid. | Fresh Prince | 8 Rules | What I Like | Family Biz | Prank Patrol | Adrenaline |
| | 555 | 545 | 50 TEL | Scooby-Doo | Total Drama | Total Drama | 6TEEN | Futurama | King of Hill | American Dad | Futurama | Chicken |
| | 557 | 541 | 51 FAM | Sonny Chance | Zack & Cody | Overruled! | Han. Montana | Wizards-Place | Latest Buzz | Ned's School | Cory in House | That's-Raven |
| | 553 | 546 | 58 TRE | Babar (CC) | Zigby | Max & Ruby | Dragon | Backyard | Ni Hao | Go, Diego, Go! | Franklin | Comfy Couch |
| cable variety | 268 | 354 | 5 KNO | Frontiers of Construction | | Stephen Fry in America (CC) | | The Beetle (N) (CC) | | (:14) Cracking Up (CC) | | Stolen Babies |
| | 575 | 583 | 20 CMT | Home Imp. | Home Imp. | Donner Down | The Gift | Reba (CC) | Reba (CC) | According-Jim | According-Jim | Home Imp. |
| | 570 | 580 | 42 MM | The American Mall (2008) Nina Dobrev, Autumn Reeser. (CC) | | | | Year of Teen Power | | disBAND | Video on Trial | RapCity (CC) |
| | 600 | 564 | 29 H&G | House | House | Holmes on Homes (CC) | | Top 10 | Design Inc. | Pure Design | Genevieve | House |
| | 615 | 520 | 31 A&E | Paranormal State (CC) | | Paranormal | Paranormal | (:01) Criminal Minds (CC) | | Psychic Kids: Paranormal | | Paranormal |
| | 628 | 584 | 32 SPKE | Most Shocking Moments | | World's Most Shocking | | When Stunts Go Bad 2! (CC) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n | | Trek: Voyager |
| | 521 | 560 | 34 TLC | Little Couple | Little Couple | Table for 12 | Table for 12 | Kids-Counting | 18 Kids-Count | Little Couple | Little Couple | Christmas |
| | 616 | 522 | 39 SHO | The Outer Limits (CC) | | A Woman's Rage (2008, Suspense) Brandy Ledford. (CC) | | | | Bones (CC) | | NCIS (CC) |
| | 620 | 523 | 40 BVO | Johnny Cash Christmas (N) | | Law & Order "Golden Years" | | Without a Trace "Satellites" | | Rich in Love ★★ (1992) Albert Finney. (CC) | | |
| | 601 | 562 | 41 SLC | Bulging Brides | Bulging Brides | ET Canada | Whatever | Work Out (CC) | | Brat Camp (Part 1 of 4) (CC) | | Trading Sp |
| | 520 | 505 | 42 DIS | Time Warp (N) | | Daily Planet (CC) | | Destroyed | Destroyed | Time Warp | | How It's Made |
| | 522 | 506 | 44 HIS | Ancient Discoveries (CC) | | Cities of the Underworld | | Cities of the Underworld | | Ultimate Engineering "Petra" | | Crime Stories |
| | 627 | 528 | 45 SPC | Fringe William Bell resurfaces. | | InnerSpace | Stargate SG-1 "Foothold" | | Star Trek: Next Gener. | | Star Trek: Voyager (CC) | |
| | 294 | 650 | 47 TBS | Funniest Commercials: 2009 | | Lopez Tonight (N) | | The Office | Seinfeld | Sex and-City | Sex and-City | Lopez Tonight |
| | 619 | 525 | 48 TROP | '70s Show | '70s Show | The Outer Limits (CC) | | ET Canada | Switch (N) | Family Guy | '70s Show | '70s Show |
| | 603 | 561 | 52 FN | Good Eats | Good Eats | Iron Chef America (CC) | | Unwrapped | Unwrapped | The F Word (CC) | | Good Eats |
| | - | - | 53 AMC | (5:00) The Green Mile ★★★ (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks. (CC) | | | | (:15) The Hunt for Red October ★★★ (1990, Suspense) Sean Connery. (CC) | | | | |
| | 626 | 547 | 57 COM | Air Farce | 22 Minutes | Corner Gas | Name Is Earl | The Simpsons | South Park | Jeff Dunham | Blue Collar TV | Daily Show |
| | 320 | 621 | 30 CEN | (6:30) Crazy for Christmas | | Drillbit Taylor ★★ (2008) Owen Wilson. (CC) | | Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days & 30 Nights | | | | |
| | 581 | 566 | 101 MTV | Teen Mom (N) (CC) | | MTV Live | Sex News | Jersey Shore (CC) | | Teen Mom (CC) | | MTV Live |
| | 261 | 394 | 102 V | (6:00) The Christmas Wish | | Gospel Challenge | | The Christmas Wish ★★ (1998, Drama) Neil Patrick Harris. | | | | Eyes Down |
| | - | - | 105 MUL | Sewing Maid | Boys Over Flo | Il Caffe | | In Germany | Euromaxx | Schauplatz | Euro. Journal | Patrol World |

## critics' corner

**Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live**

Known as much for his fiery temper as his culinary skills, the famed chef shows a decidedly friendlier side in this one-hour special, as he provides step-by-step instructions for cooking a three-course meal. On the menu: angel hair pasta with shrimp, chili peppers and tomatoes; steak Diane with sauteed potatoes and peas; and a quick tiramisu for dessert. 6 PM on STR, 9 PM on GTV FOX

**The Good Wife**

A judge known for handing down questionable sentences overturns a simple plea deal arranged by Alicia (Julianna Margulies), causing her to question his motives. Will (Josh Charles) is delighted when Diane (Christine Baranski) receives an offer she can't refuse. Tony Goldwyn ("Law & Order: Criminal Intent") and Kate Burton ("Grey's Anatomy") guest star in the new episode "Lifeguard." 10 PM on CBS GTV

**Actor needs kidney transplant**
Grizzwald Chapman, known to most as Tracy Morgan's sidekick on NBC's 30 Rock, is in dire need of a kidney transplant, the actor has revealed during a taping of The Dr. Oz Show. **POPEATER.COM**

# Pushing boundaries

## 'I'm going to make all my movies in 3-D:' Cameron

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

**Nearly 15 years after he originally conceived of the project and after more than four years of development, James Cameron finally brings his epic Avatar to the screen. The film explores an alien culture through the eyes of Jake (Sam Worthington), a marine who falls in love with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), one of the natives on the alien planet Pandora. We caught up with Cameron in London to discuss the massive undertaking that is Avatar, pushing the boundaries of 3-D technology and a possible sequel.**



**Q How important was it to push the boundaries of 3-D filmmaking with this project?**

**A** Up until now, every filmmaker who's made a 3-D film has really felt it incumbent upon themselves to constantly remind you that you're watching a 3-D movie. It's usually things that are floating or poking out of the screen. If I'm constantly reminding you that you're watching a 3-D movie, then you're constantly sitting there reminded that you're in a movie theatre.

So we approached the 3-D as if it were a window, or a portal into a reality. We didn't look for opportunities to constantly exercise our 3-D muscle in front of you. Maybe one thing that Avatar can achieve is to become an example of a mature use of stereoscopic 3-D.

Let it move out of its adolescence into a mature acceptance as just part of the cinematic art by serious filmmakers. I don't have a problem with that. I'm going to make all my movies in 3-D, no matter what the subject matter.

**Q But Avatar is also being released in 2-D.**

**A** We try not to make the film a 3-D film first. With some 3-D movies, you watch them in 2-D and there's a shot of a spear sticking out of the screen that they hold on for 10 seconds.

It's all sorts of fun in 3-D, but in 2-D it looks like the stupidest edit in the world. So we wanted to make sure we weren't doing that sort of thing. We're very proud of the 2-D version of the film we've put out. But it really comes down to consumer choice. I think of the 3-D as the premium experience of the film and the 2-D as the excellent base-level presentation of the film.

**Q At the same time, there are strong environmental and political messages in the film. How did you work those in?**

**A** I think it's less an intellectual message and more something you feel emotionally. I wanted people to feel the environmental message, not think about it, not have it droning on as information.

It's kind of the exact opposite of An Inconvenient Truth, with the bar graphs and all that. In an adventure film, it's more important to get these concepts viscerally. Historically, the kind of science fiction that I grew up on had a message. Usually it was a dystopian message, usually it was in the form of some kind of warning. And as much as I loved Star Wars, it was a moment in history when science fiction became more escapist fantasy and less a kind of intellectual medium. Avatar is an attempt to merge science fiction back to its roots of having a warning.

More than four years in making, James Cameron's Avatar promises to combine the best of technology and storytelling.

**Q The Na'vi language is very complex. How was it developed?**

**A** It started off innocently enough as I was writing the script. I was just sort of free-associating. And when I found Dr. Paul Frommer, who is the head of the linguistics department at USC in Los Angeles, he started to riff on that. He wanted to find things that the actors could still pronounce, but which would sound a little bit alien to our ear — at least in terms of European-based cultures. So he went to Indonesian sounds and bushmen clicks, things like that.

**Avatar opens in theatres on Friday**

**Q Is there going to be a sequel?**

**A** I have it mapped out ... It all depends on whether we do well with the first film. But that was certainly the intention from the beginning. When I pitched this... I said, "You know, we're going to have spend a lot of money and time and energy. So it really makes sense to think of it as the potential start of a franchise." We used to joke that we'd cut to 10 years later, and Jake's kind of fat, sitting on the couch in a palm tree, and he's like, "Hey, honey, get me a beer." And Neytiri says, "Get your own beer!"

**MTV finds Teen Wolf actors**

MTV has cast four actors in its upcoming Teen Wolf series, a re-imagining of the 1985 movie starring Michael J. Fox: Tyler Posey, Tyler Hoechlin, Crystal Reed and Dylan O'Brien will appear in the new version. EW.COM

# In hip hop, Drake's best we ever had

## Toronto rapper's got massive buzz

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto hip-hop artists Drake has had made a dizzying ascent in the rap world — and he's done it without having released a proper album.

**On his hit single Best I Ever Had, Canadian rapper Drake bragged that he had "buzz so big, I could probably sell a blank disc."**

And in a way, he has done just that.

The Toronto hip-hop star has had made a dizzying ascent in the rap world — and he's done it without having released a proper album.

He has three top 20 singles in the U.S. and two Grammy nominations, he's collaborated with Jay-Z, Kanye West and Eminem, and he even had to shoot down rumours of a relationship with Barbadian pop star Rihanna (poor guy).

In a matter of months, he's become one of Canada's most prominent hip-hop exports ever, and one question remains: How did the former Degrassi star go from the cosy environs of Toronto's wealthy Forest Hill enclave to hanging around with Lil Wayne?

"You know what, I'll tell you honestly: it's the hustle and the drive," Toronto hip-hop artist Kardinal Offishall told The Canadian Press in a recent interview.

"I've seen Drake from a few years ago to where he's at now. It's not just because Lil Wayne picked him up or because he had an Internet buzz. I've seen him literally give it everything that he had, 150,000 per cent, in order to make it."

And make it he has.

Born Aubrey Drake Graham in Memphis to a black father and a white Jewish mother, Drake moved to Toronto as a child after his parents divorced.

He got his big break in 2001 at the age of 14 when he was cast on Degrassi: The Next Generation as Jimmy Brooks, a high-school basketball star who eventually surrenders his hoop dreams after being shot in the back, leaving him confined to a wheelchair.

In 2006, Drake self-published his first mixtape, Room for Improvement. That led to Replacement Girl, his collaboration with Virginia R&B crooner Trey Songz that was the lead single on Drake's 2007 mixtape, Comeback Season, and which caught the attention of New Orleans rapper Lil Wayne.

Soon, Drake was tucked under Weezy's wing, riding shotgun with a rapper on the cusp of superduperstardom.

In 2008, Lil Wayne's Tha Carter III went platinum in a week and went on to sell more copies than any other album that year. In September '08, the rapper stepped onstage at the MTV Video Music Awards for a collaboration with Leona Lewis and T-Pain.

Shirtless and behind heavy dark shades, Lil Wayne crept down a staircase and rapped a verse that actually wasn't his. Lines like "I'm losing my mind like: 'Damn where my roof just go?' Top slipped off like Janet at the Super Bowl" actually belonged to Drake, then still a mostly unknown MC.

And when Lewis launched into the song's hook (from Nina Simone's Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood), Lil Wayne gave credit where it was due, rasping overtop: "Drizzy Drake, I love you boy!"

A few months after that high-profile endorsement, Drake dropped his next mixtape, So Far Gone, to almost unprecedented buzz for an emerging artist.

Drake was Weezy's protege and showed the influence of Wayne's mischievous, meticulous rhymes. But he arguably owed more to Kanye West, with his exploration of the space between swagger and self-criticism and his unfailing ear for melody.

The mixtape's swooning single Best I Ever Had was a perfect showcase, with Drake crooning the ballad's hook and rapping its intermittently sweet lyrics ("Sweat pants, hair tied, chillin' with no makeup on/ That's when you're the prettiest, I hope that you don't take it wrong").

The song went to No. 2 on the U.S. charts. Drake, still without a record label or official album, became the target of a major-label bidding war (Lil Wayne's Cash Money Records, under the Universal umbrella, ultimately won).

Drake began crafting his album debut, Thank Me Later, scheduled for the first quarter of 2010.

Meantime, his songs continued to get major airplay on both sides of the border. "Drake knows how to write records that are about big ideas," Washington rapper Wale.

"Look at the names of his songs: Fear, Forever, Winner. Those are big ideas."

Toronto-raised hip-hop artist K'naan was more blunt: "He's very good."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Sags win out over scalpels**

Dame Judi Dench feels "too old" for cosmetic surgery. The 75-year-old actress admits she hates getting older but worries she has left it too late to alter her appearance, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Celebrity Buzz

## Lindsay in the Twitter

**THINK BEFORE YOU TWEET** Lindsay Lohan's habitual Twittering may have brought an early end to her trip to India for aid work and a BBC documentary. "Over 40 children saved so far within one day's work. This is what life is about," Lohan posted to her profile, referring to a raid in New Delhi that that saved children being held captive in workshops. "She did not say she was present at the raid, this is a misinterpretation," a rep for the BBC tells the Daily Telegraph. "She was merely referring to a raid that happened connected to child trafficking." METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Jude and Sienna shack up

**HERE WE GO AGAIN** Jude Law, 36, and Sienna Miller, 27, are moving in together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pair — who have rekindled their romance after splitting up in 2006 when the actor had an affair with his children's nanny — are so "in love" they are now looking to buy a new London pad early next year so they can be together all the time.

A source told Britain's The Sun newspaper, "Last week they put the wheels in motion to live together again. They have told staff that they are in love and will be moving back to London in the spring and they will be living together as a couple once again."

The on-and-off couple grew close again recently when they both starred in separate Broadway shows in New York at the same time, Jude appearing in Hamlet and Sienna in Miss Julie.

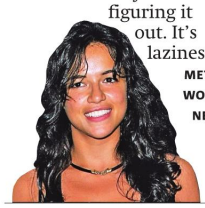
The pair were recently spotted leaving Law's New York apartment together, sparking rumours of a reconciliation.

They first met on the set of Alfie in 2004.

The source added, "Jude was reluctant at first for anything to happen. But Sienna convinced him that she was still in love with him." METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Michelle has her secrets

**SHE DOESN'T KISS AND TELL** Michelle Rodriguez is tired of having to respond to questions about her sexuality. "If I wanted to tell people what I do … I'd have made a sex video a long time ago," the Avatar star says, who has been rumoured to be lesbian or bisexual according to Showbiz Spy. "Largely, people don't know the whole story about anything. But still they need to put a name on it so they can label it and put it on the side and not dedicate any time to figuring it out. It's laziness." METRO WORLD NEWS



## Celebrity tweets

LL Cool J is not a fan of rocking, Demi Moore can't stand the rain, Yoko Ono wants you to start small and Neil Diamond does the holidays big-time.

• @llcoolj Do not confuse motion and progress. A rocking horse keeps moving but does not make any progress.

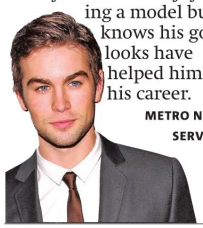
• @mrskutcher Trying to holiday shop in the pouring rain....bah humbug!

• @yokoono Give up meat one day and then two days maybe. It's a very, very intelligent idea.

• @NeilDiamond Sang for the President and Mrs. Obama last night. Terrific. Wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy Chanukah. METRO WORLD NEWS

## Chace's woes

**POOR PRETTY BOY** Chace Crawford hated being a model, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Gossip Girl actor says he didn't enjoy being a model but knows his good looks have helped him in his career. METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Taylor Swift gives big bucks

**BIRTHDAY BONUS SCHOOLS** Taylor Swift is no longer a teen. The country superstar marked turning 20 with a Christmas-themed birthday party for friends, her band and her tour crew at her family's home in Hendersonville, Tenn, people.com reports.

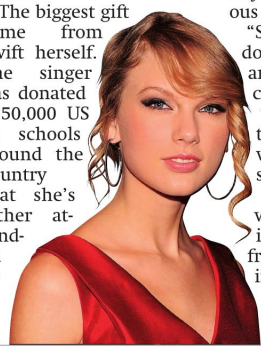
"It's more like an end-of-year Christmas party that happens to be on my birthday," says Swift, who spent the night before at home, baking butter cookies and gingerbread cookies with cream-cheese icing for her guests.

The biggest gift came from Swift herself. The singer has donated $250,000 US to schools around the country that she's either attended or worked with.

The money will pay teachers' salaries as well as buy books and fund various educational programs.

"Something I wanted to do at the end of this amazing year and especially on my birthday was give back to something I really believe in, which is education," says Swift.

"The schools that I went to and the amazing people I got to learn from really turned me into who I am, and I wanted to give back." METRO NEWS SERVICES



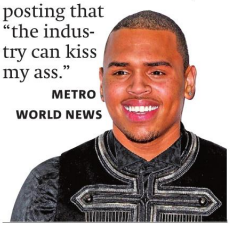
## Richie goes dark

**BRUNETTE IS BEST** On Saturday, Nicole Richie debuted a darker do, usmagazine.com reports.

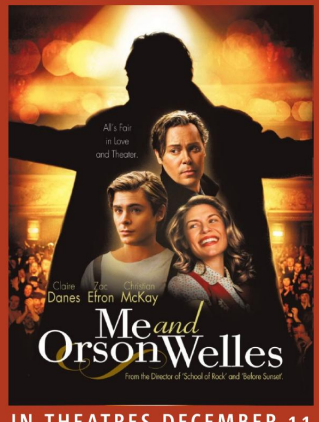
"I hadn't done it in about two years," the mother-of-two, 28, told usmagazine.com. "So I was just ready and sick of being blonde." METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Brown hits back

**RETAIL RETALIATION** After hearing reports from his Twitter followers that retail managers around the country had been refusing to stock his new album, Chris Brown shot back, posting that "the industry can kiss my ass." METRO WORLD NEWS



YOU COULD
WIN
A PAIR OF RUN OF ENGAGEMENT PASSES TO SEE ME AND ORSON WELLES

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## Brand picks up a ring

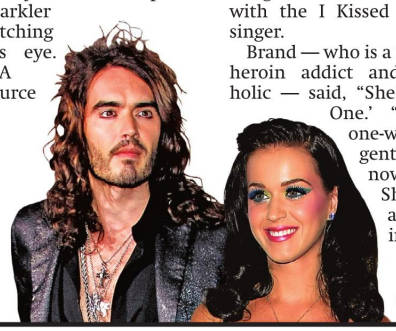
**HE KISSED A GIRL** Russell Brand has been shopping for a diamond ring — sparking rumours he is going to propose to girlfriend Katy Perry, people.com reports.

The British comic star was photographed looking at bands at exclusive London jewellers Cartier on Friday with one specific sparkler catching his eye. A source said, "His face lit up when he saw this one particular diamond ring.

He put it on his ring finger and gazed at it for ages."

Russell, 34, has been dating Katy, 25, since September and it looks as though he is ready to turn his back on his womanizing ways for good and settle down with the I Kissed a Girl singer.

Brand — who is a former heroin addict and alcoholic — said, "She's 'The One.' "I'm a one-woman gentleman now. She's amazing." METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Garth is a such a romantic

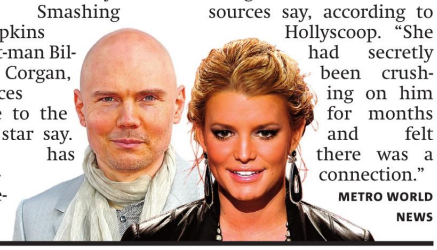
**I'M LOVIN' IT?** As far as anniversaries go, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood must have to be "lovin' it," people.com reports.

Brooks, who came out of retirement and officially began his five-year run of shows at Wynn Las Vegas on Saturday, had a fancy dinner planned to celebrate his fouth anniversary with Yearwood, but suddenly that meal became McDonald's French fries.

"That was our anniversary dinner," he told reporters. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Jessica has 'fallen for Billy'

**ODDEST COUPLE EVER** Though she's said to be taking it slow, Jessica Simpson is totally smitten with Smashing Pumpkins front-man Billy Corgan, sources close to the pop star say. "She has completely fallen for Billy and his easygoing, smart attitude. She says she wants to take things a lot further," sources say, according to Hollyscoop. "She had secretly been crushing on him for months and felt there was a connection." METRO WORLD NEWS



The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2009
Today Rain 100% 6° / 5°
Wednesday Rain 90% 7° / 5°
Thursday Rain 90% 8° / 7°
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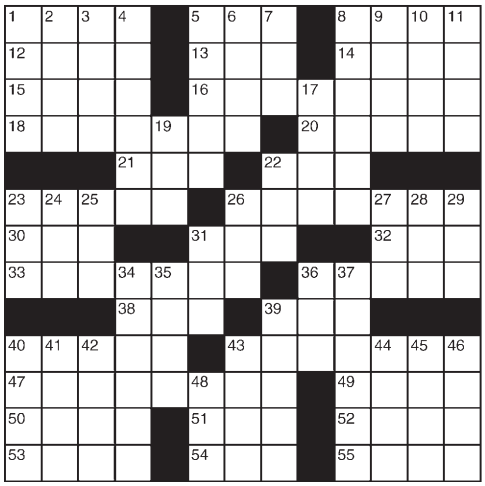
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

# Take Five



**ACROSS**

1 Initial stake
5 Resort
8 Obama's predecessor
12 — -garou (werewolf)
13 Sept. preceder
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Choir member
16 Pop-up's opposite
18 More healthy
20 Urban disturbances
21 "Of course"
22 21-Across, at the altar
23 Bard's creations
26 Cad
30 Resistance measure
31 Pistol
32 Actress Gardner
33 Sledgehammer, e.g.
36 Red Sea nation
38 Lubricate
39 Swindle
40 Disco-style
43 Creator of a company
47 Flatfish
49 Modern coin
50 Carry on
51 Greek H
52 "— Karenina"
53 Harem rooms
54 Nev. neighbor
55 "Monopoly" card

**DOWN**

1 "Woe is me!"
2 — contendere
3 Ballerina's frill
4 Namesake of a sort
5 Wise ones
6 Kitten's call
7 Past
8 Toe woe
9 Loosen
10 Cancel a dele
11 — d'oeuvres
17 Asian language
19 — Moines
22 Charged bit
23 Burst
24 Cry of discovery
25 Ostrich's cousin
26 Botanical prickle
27 Hoover, for one
28 First lady
29 Sprinted
31 Come together
34 Reason for a lack of glory?
35 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
36 Second person
37 Group of nine
39 Reef material
40 Frizzy hairstyle
41 Pleased
42 Chaplin widow
43 Crumbly cheese
44 Sand formation
45 Sea eagle
46 Street
48 Calendar abbr.

## Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | 3 | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| | 9 | | 1 | | 8 | | 5 | |
| 7 | | | 5 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| | | 8 | 3 | | 5 | 4 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 9 | 6 | | 4 | 3 | | |
| 8 | | | 2 | | 7 | | | 6 |
| | 1 | | 4 | | 6 | | 3 | |
| 5 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 4 |

**PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | C | H | ■ | S | A | Y | ■ | S | C | U | M |
| E | U | R | O | ■ | O | D | E | ■ | T | A | R | O |
| E | R | O | S | ■ | C | O | L | L | A | R | D | S |
| F | A | C | T | O | R | ■ | P | O | R | O | U | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | R | A | S | ■ | G | E | L | ■ | ■ |
| C | O | L | L | A | T | E | D | ■ | R | I | C | O |
| A | N | A | ■ | L | I | N | E | S | ■ | N | O | W |
| P | E | N | S | ■ | C | O | L | L | A | G | E | N |
| ■ | ■ | C | C | I | ■ | R | I | O | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | H | E | A | R | S | ■ | V | E | T | O | E | D |
| C | O | L | L | A | P | S | E | ■ | E | R | G | O |
| O | B | O | E | ■ | E | E | R | ■ | S | C | A | N |
| T | O | T | S | ■ | W | A | Y | ■ | T | A | N | S |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 |

## On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

## Metro Recipe of the Day

### Seafood and Bacon Paella

**INGREDIENTS:**

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
2 large garlic cloves, chopped
7 oz (200 g) bacon, chopped
1 large tomato, chopped
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) paella rice
1/2 tsp (2 ml) saffron threads, crushed
5 cups (1.25 l) hot chicken stock
14 oz (400 g) frozen cooked seafood mix

**METHOD:**

1. Heat oil in large, nonstick frying pan. Add onion, pepper, garlic and bacon pieces, and cook over gentle heat 5 minutes. Add tomato and cook 2 minutes.
2. Add rice and stir to coat in oil. Add saffron threads and heat for a few seconds, then pour in hot stock. Bring to boil, then stir lightly and simmer 5 minutes.
3. Mix in frozen seafood, return to gentle simmer and cook until rice is tender and liquid absorbed, stirring occasionally. Serve.

**SERVES 4**

**rd.ca**
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

**ARIES** ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Ignore your critics and do what you think is best. It might be an idea in future to keep your plans to yourself so others don't get the chance to poke their noses in.

**TAURUS** ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun in Sagittarius at this time of year tends to make you anxious but if you think about it you will realize you've got precious little to worry about.

**GEMINI** ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may think you know all there is to know about someone you love but they will do something today that makes you realize you don't know it all.

**CANCER** ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The Sun may be transiting the work area of your chart at the moment but you don't have to do everything yourself.

**LEO** ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You won't lack for confidence today but what about common sense? If you take foolish risks no amount of confidence will save you.

**VIRGO** ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand today, so promise yourself now that no matter what anyone says to you you won't rise to the bait.

**LIBRA** ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point blaming other people if something does not go right for you. Look at your own performance first and resist the urge to pass the buck.

**SCORPIO** ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't waste money on things you don't really need. Something may be bright and shiny and catch your fancy today but what good would it do you?

**SAGITTARIUS** ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your energy levels may be high but you seem unable to decide what you should be doing with it all. But who says you have to do anything?

**CAPRICORN** ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may be rather fearful at the moment but it won't be long before you are feeling better.

**AQUARIUS** ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Sometimes it pays to be blunt and this may be one of those times. Others won't mind your forthright language so long as they understand it.

**PISCES** ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Keep a cool head today because something is going to happen that has others running around like it's the end of the world.

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$869
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Le Flamboyant Hotel & Resort • 3 1/2★
Breakfast
Standard garden view rm.
Jan. 9, 16 & 23 • 1 wk.
$1059
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $234

### Grenada via Toronto

Grenadian by rex resorts • 3 1/2★
Hillside rm.
Jan. 17, 24 & 31 • 1 wk.
$1139
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $205

### Nassau, Bahamas via Toronto

Comfort Suites Paradise Island • 3★
Continental breakfast
Supersaver rm.
Feb. 3 • 5 nts.
$1509
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $96

### Antigua via Toronto

Jolly Beach Resort & Spa • 3 1/2★
All-Inclusive
Standard oceanview rm.
Feb. 28 • 1 wk.
$1639
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $233

### Saint Lucia via Toronto

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa • 4★
All-Inclusive
Deluxe garden view rm.
Jan. 9, 10, 11 & 18 • 1 wk.
PRIVILEGES
$1649
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $225

### Aruba via Toronto

Divi Tamarijn Aruba • 3 1/2★
All-Inclusive
Deluxe oceanfront rm.
Jan. 16, 17 & 24 • 1 wk.
$1659
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $237

### Barbados via Toronto

Bougainvillea Beach Resort • 4★
Deluxe studio
Feb. 2, 3, 9, 10 & 16 • 1 wk.
$1999
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $87

Almond Casuarina Beach Resort • 4★
All-Inclusive
One-bedroom suite garden view
Jan. 12, 19, 20, 26 & 27 • 1 wk.
$2289
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $87

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Breakfast • Standard rm.
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